

Kanakanabu language

Kanakanavu (also spelled **Kanakanabu**) is a Southern Tsouic language spoken by the Kanakanavu people, an indigenous people of Taiwan (see Taiwanese aborigines). It is a Formosan language of the Austronesian family.

The Kanakanavu live in the two villages of Manga and Takanua in Namasia District (formerly Sanmin Township), Kaohsiung.^[4]

The language is considered to be moribund.^[5]

Kanakanavu	
Native to	Taiwan
Region	Maya Village, Namasia District, Kaohsiung City
Ethnicity	250 (no date) ^[1]
Native speakers	4 (2012) ^[2]
Language family	Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tsouic ? ▪ Saaroa–Kanakanabu ▪ Kanakanavu
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	xnb
Glottolog	kana1286 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/kana1286) ^[3]

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History

The native Kanakanavu speakers were Taiwanese aborigines living on the islands. Following the Dutch Colonial Period in the 17th century, Han-Chinese immigration began to dominate the islands population. The village of Takanua is a village assembled by Japanese rulers to relocate various aboriginal groups in order to establish easier dominion over these groups.^[6]

Description

There are 14 different consonant phonemes, containing only voiceless plosives within Kanakanavu. Adequate descriptions of liquid consonants become a challenge within Kanakanavu. It also contains 6 vowels plus diphthongs and triphthongs. Vowel length is often not clear if distinctive or not, as well as speakers pronouncing vowel phonemes with variance. As most Austronesian and Formosan languages, Kanakanavu has the syllable structure **C V**. Very few, even simple words, contain less than three to four syllables.^[7]

Alphabet

A, C, E, I, K, L, M, N, Ng, O, P, R, S, T, U, H, V, ' / ?.

C represents the phoneme /c/.

L represents the phonemes /d/ and /t/.

P represents both /b/ and /p/.

/ɬ/ is spelled as **hl**.

Phonology

Consonants

Kanakanabu consonants

	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Retroflex</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
Nasal	m		n			ŋ (ng)	
Stop	p b (p)		t	ɖ (ɬ)	c	k	? (')
Affricate							
Fricative	f v		s z				h
Rhotic			ɾ				
Approximant	w		ɬ (hl)	ɻ	j (y)		

Vowels

Front: i, e, a

Central: ɻ, e/ə

Back: u, o

References

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2. Kanakanabu (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/xnb/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Kanakanabu" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kana1286>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Zeitoun & Teng (2014), abstract (<http://iscll-14.ling.sinica.edu.tw/files-pdf/Papers/Session6/ZeitounTeng.pdf>).
5. "Did you know Kanakanabu is critically endangered? (n.d.). Retrieved April 15, 2016, from <http://www.endangeredlanguages.com/lang/3236>" (<http://www.endangeredlanguages.com/lang/3236>). Endangeredlanguages.com. Retrieved 2019-05-08. External link in |title= (help)
6. "Archived copy" (https://web.archive.org/web/20160920061449/https://www2.uni-erfurt.de/sprachwissenschaft/Vgl_SW/kanakanabu/language-description/setting-of-language/ethnographic-situation.html). Archived from the original (https://www2.uni-erfurt.de/sprachwissenschaft/Vgl_SW/kanakanabu/language-description/setting-of-language/ethnographic-situation.html) on 2016-09-20. Retrieved 2016-09-15.

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External links

- [Endangered Languages](http://www.endangeredlanguages.com/lang/3236) (<http://www.endangeredlanguages.com/lang/3236>)

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